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Selected Speeches and News Releases

April 20 - April 27, 1989

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USDA PROPOSES ADDITIONAL METHODS TO DESTROY TRICHINAE

WASHINGTON, April 20—The U.S. Department of Agriculture is proposing to allow the use of certain amounts of potassium chloride as an alternative to salt to destroy trichinae in cured country ham. Comments on the proposal will be accepted through June 19.

“Federal regulations currently provide three approved curing methods for destroying trichinae in ham,” said Lester M. Crawford, administrator of USDA’s Food Safety and Inspection Service. The proposal modifies two of the methods and provides an additional method.

The new method would allow processors to substitute potassium chloride for some of the sodium chloride in the curing mixture used on hams. The current regulations call for a four-percent salt content to insure product safety.

“Research by NC State University scientists shows that processors can exchange some potassium chloride for sodium chloride to reduce sodium in cured country ham without compromising safety,” said Crawford. A minimum salt content in the cure mixture would be required, but up to half the weight could consist of potassium chloride. This method also could be used in combination with other approved methods.

The proposal would eliminate the current “Method No. 2” for trichinae destruction, which requires injecting a salt water solution into the ham. “FSIS believes there are no establishments currently using this method,” said Crawford. “But we are requesting notification if this method is being used,” he said.

The proposal requires processors to apply the cure mixture to cover all exposed tissue, but they can rinse or brush excess cure from the ham after 30 days contact with the cure. Removing the excess cure helps prevent additional salt absorption. Current regulations do not allow rinsing excess cure until 40 days have elapsed.

The proposal also would provide three different drying schedules and eliminate drying temperatures below 75 degrees F for country hams after curing.

Comments should be addressed to: Policy Office, Attn: Linda Carey, FSIS Hearing Clerk, Room 3171-S, FSIS, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250.

FSIS inspects meat and poultry products to ensure that they are safe, wholesome and accurately labeled.

Richard Bryant (202) 447-9113

#

BELTSVILLE SYMPOSIUM TO FOCUS ON SCIENTIFIC NOTES FROM THE UNDERGROUND

WASHINGTON, April 20—A crucial but little-known part of Earth's ecosystem will attract more than 250 scientists from around the world to Beltsville, Md., for the 14th annual symposium sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Beltsville Agricultural Research Center on May 8-11.

The scientists will examine recent findings and research priorities on the rhizosphere, the zone of soil surrounding plant roots, said Donald L. Keister, who is coordinating the symposium. He is a plant physiologist at the center, part of USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

"We know much more about the ecology of higher plants and animals than about the soil ecosystem that sustains them," said Keister. "Where most people would see only soil and roots, scientists see a vibrant and infinitely complex interplay of soil-dwelling animals, microbes, plants, water, minerals, gases and chemicals."

Symposium topics of interest to farmers, gardeners, nursery operators, environmentalists and others include biological control of soil-borne plant pests, nutrient supply by root-dwelling bacteria, natural chemicals that roots secrete, effects of air pollutants and releases of genetically modified plants and micro-organisms.

"When you introduce a new plant or microbe into the soil, changes occur in the action, number and types of organisms and micro-organisms. But we know very little about most of the changes," Keister said. Among other mysteries are "how, exactly, do the dozens of different kinds of soil microbes influence bacteria that pass nutrients to roots or that cause plant diseases."

“We need this kind of knowledge,” he said, “to ensure the continuity of our food supply and recommend sustainable farming systems. New information about the rhizosphere will also help protect crops and the environment from stresses like drought, pollution, farming practices, agricultural chemicals and possible climate changes due to the greenhouse effect.”

Scientists, convening at the Beltsville center, will also discuss the latest technologies in root-zone research, such as DNA probes, monoclonal antibodies, genetic engineering techniques—and even “underground films” made by camera systems adapted from medical and aviation tools.

One kind of soil-spying system consists of a video camera inside a tubular probe called a borescope, used to inspect aircraft engines. ARS scientists who cooperated to develop the probe recently used it to film the attack of root-rot fungi on cotton plants.

Keister said scientists are also looking more closely at natural chemicals, called flavonoids, that plants secrete through their roots. Some flavonoids defend the plant from pests; others turn bacteria into fertilizer factories.

“In legumes such as soybean or alfalfa, some flavonoid chemicals switch on certain genes of beneficial bacteria living near the roots. Products of these genes allow the bacteria to actually enter the root itself. There, the bacteria begin capturing nitrogen gas—that seeps into the root cell from pores in the soil—and converting the gas into ammonia fertilizer the plant can use.

“To encourage the bacteria, the root grows nodules—fingerlike or rounded extensions about the size of a pea. Inside the cells of these nodules, the bacteria proliferate, supplying more and more ammonia.”

Other topics at the symposium, which will feature about 40 speakers and 50 poster presentations, include:

- * Breeding soybeans so they will prefer playing host to genetically engineered root bacteria that supply greater amounts of nutrients.
- * The fate of introduced and genetically engineered microorganisms released in the rhizosphere.
- * Effects on the rhizosphere of air pollutants such as ozone and sulfur dioxide, a pollutant in acid rain.
- * Beneficial micro-organisms being developed and tested as alternatives to chemical pesticides against plant pests.
- * Delivery systems and commercial marketing strategies for biocontrol agents.

* Advanced computer techniques for analyzing photographic and video imagery provided by technologies used to spy on the root zone.

* The different kinds of roots and how they develop.

* How micro-organisms colonize roots, how leguminous plants interact with soil bacteria, and successes and failures of such bacteria tested for their ability to supply nutrients to plants.

* How the hormones produced by soil microbes affect plant growth.

Jim De Quattro (301) 344-4296

#

USDA ANNOUNCES 1988 AND 1989 HONEY-LOAN REPAYMENT LEVELS

WASHINGTON, April 20—Producers may repay their 1988 and 1989 honey price support loans at the following levels, according to Vern Neppl, acting executive vice president of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation:

Weekly Honey-loan Repayment Levels color and class, cents per pound

	1988-Crop	1989-Crop
Table		
White	40.0	40.0
Extra-light Amber	37.0	37.0
Light Amber	36.0	36.0
Amber	34.0	35.0
Nontable	33.0	33.0

The change in the 1988-crop levels to reflect the "nontable" class is effective 12:01 a.m., April 21.

This is the first weekly announcement of 1989-crop repayment levels. The 1989 levels reflect market conditions for 1989-crop honey and may differ from 1988 repayment levels.

Producers who redeem their honey pledged as loan collateral by repaying their 1988 or 1989 honey-price support loans at these levels may not repledge the same honey as collateral for another loan.

Jane K. Phillips (202) 447-7601 7:30 am-4:00 pm DST

John C. Ryan (202) 447-8207 4:00 pm-5:30 pm

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USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET PRICE FOR UPLAND COTTON

WASHINGTON, April 20—Deputy Under Secretary of Agriculture William Bailey today announced the prevailing world market price, adjusted to U.S. quality and location (adjusted world price), for Strict Low Middling (SLM) 1-1/16 inch (micronaire 3.5-4.9) upland cotton (base quality) and the coarse count adjustment in effect from 12:01 a.m. Friday, April 21, through midnight Thursday, April 27.

Since the Adjusted World Price (AWP) is above the 1987 crop and 1988 crop base quality loan rates of 52.25 and 51.80 cents per pound, respectively, the loan repayment rate for 1987 crop and 1988 crop upland cotton during this period is equal to the respective loan rates for the specific quality and location.

Because the loan repayment rate for 1988 crop upland cotton in effect during this period is above the established loan rate, loan deficiency payments are not available for 1988 crop upland cotton sold during this period.

The AWP will continue to be used to determine the value of upland cotton that is obtained in exchange for commodity certificates.

This period represents week one of the six-week transition period from using current shipment prices to using forward shipment prices in the AWP calculation. The procedure was adopted to avoid a dramatic change in the AWP that could occur with no transition period, due to differences between new and old crop price quotes.

For week one and week two, the Northern Europe price = $(2 \times \text{Northern Europe current price}) + (\text{Northern Europe forward price})/3$. Similarly, the Northern Europe coarse count price = $(2 \times \text{Northern Europe coarse count current price}) + (\text{Northern Europe coarse count forward price})/3$. In calculating the adjustment to average U.S. spot

market location, Thursday's current shipment prices for U.S. Memphis territory and the California/Arizona territory as quoted for Middling 1-3/32 inch cotton C.I.F. northern Europe were used.

Based on data for the week ending April 20, the AWP for upland cotton and the coarse count adjustment are determined as follows:

Adjusted World Price	
Northern Europe Price	73.34
Adjustments:	
Average U.S. spot market location	12.05
SLM 1-1/16 inch cotton	2.00
Average U.S. location	0.42
Sum of Adjustments	<u>-14.47</u>
ADJUSTED WORLD PRICE	58.87 cents/lb.
Coarse Count Adjustment	
Northern Europe Price	73.34
Northern Europe Coarse Count Price	<u>-67.42</u>
	5.92
Adjustment to SLM 1-inch cotton	<u>-4.15</u>
COARSE COUNT ADJUSTMENT	1.77 cents/lb.

The next AWP and coarse count adjustment announcement will be made on April 27.

Charles Cunningham (202) 447-7954

#

FARMERS HAVE CONSERVATION PLANS FOR 78 PERCENT OF HIGHLY ERODIBLE LAND

WASHINGTON, April 21—Conservation plans have been developed for nearly four-fifths of the nation's highly erodible cropland, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service.

Conservation plans have been approved for 105.4 million acres, or 78 percent of the highly erodible cropland that will need compliance plans by the end of the year. "We're slightly ahead of where we expected to be," said Wilson Scaling, SCS chief. "We're optimistic that we'll meet the 1985 Farm Bill goal to have plans in place for all highly erodible acreage by the end of this year."

Producers who cultivate highly erodible cropland must have an approved conservation plan by Dec. 31 to remain eligible for USDA programs. Those plans must be implemented by Dec. 31, 1994.

“Not only are we ahead on our planning goal,” said Scaling, “a significant number of farmers have already implemented their systems.”

To date, conservation systems have been installed on 29 million acres, 22 percent of the highly erodible acres.

Scaling said about 1.4 million conservation plans are expected to be developed by the end of this year, up from the 800,000 plans that were previously estimated to be needed. The increase is because many farmers are having plans developed on a tract basis, rather than for the whole farm unit.

On farmland that is rented out,” Scaling said, “it is easier for the landowner and the producer to have conservation plans developed on smaller tracts rather than the whole farm. This will reduce the number of plans that will have to be redone and will simplify the transfer of tracts between producers.

Scaling said local SCS offices are contacting farmers by phone and letter to remind them about the deadline for conservation plans. “Farmers need to have their plans approved by the end of this year,” he said. “Also, they need to begin implementing in 1990. The sooner they are actively applying their plans, the sooner they will be assured that they will retain their eligibility for USDA programs.”

The following table summarizes state-by-state amounts of highly erodible land (HEL) determinations completed, percentage of land which has conservation plans completed and the percentage of land which has plans implemented.

	Total Highly* Erodible Land (HEL) (acres)	HEL Deter- minations Completed (% of acres)	HEL Plans Completed* (% of acres)	HEL Systems Implemented* (% of acres)
ALABAMA	1,600,000	100	97	16
ALASKA	49,579	100	94	32
ARIZONA	706,374	108	97	79
ARKANSAS	530,765	83	77	25
CALIFORNIA	900,000	100	79	18

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COLORADO	9,179,031	97	85	24
CONNECTICUT	13,600	100	100	8
DELAWARE	10,651	100	84	30
FLORIDA	210,000	85	67	40
GEORGIA	1,111,759	100	73	31
HAWAII	83,417	100	70	4
IDAHO	3,659,279	92	65	21
ILLINOIS	4,912,384	96	89	12
INDIANA	2,736,341	100	75	16
IOWA	11,750,000	100	78	15
KANSAS	13,059,645	100	83	15
KENTUCKY	4,200,000	79	58	19
LOUISIANA	177,994	100	77	28
MAINE	150,060	78	80	43
MARYLAND	312,161	100	90	9
MASSACHUSETTS	15,325	99	99	16
MICHIGAN	575,000	100	87	26
MINNESOTA	2,507,259	88	92	29
MISSISSIPPI	1,559,687	100	60	25
MISSOURI	6,300,566	100	72	22
MONTANA	13,716,179	82	76	28
NEBRASKA	9,703,876	94	79	27
NEVADA	125,000	95	65	47
NEW HAMPSHIRE	6,200	87	84	13
NEW JERSEY	71,683	100	72	6
NEW MEXICO	1,720,736	64	56	16
NEW YORK	1,020,042	95	75	25
NORTH CAROLINA	1,206,865	100	86	8
NORTH DAKOTA	7,014,776	77	73	7
OHIO	1,749,150	100	75	9
OKLAHOMA	4,739,825	100	80	17
OREGON	1,668,000	100	78	42
PENNSYLVANIA	1,900,000	98	66	9
PUERTO RICO	1,019	100	91	63
RHODE ISLAND	494	100	83	100
SOUTH CAROLINA	417,673	85	63	34
SOUTH DAKOTA	3,631,321	100	84	17
TENNESSEE	2,513,100	94	63	8
TEXAS	12,026,372	100	89	41
UTAH	527,288	100	88	71
VERMONT	83,000	100	78	10
VIRGINIA	1,027,815	100	91	8
WASHINGTON	3,652,000	97	73	18

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WEST VIRGINIA	65,000	100	100	19
WISCONSIN	3,292,288	97	76	38
WYOMING	944,500	93	77	53
TOTAL	139,135,179	96	78	21

*Estimates of total HEL acres adjusted as of March 1989. Percentage of HEL plans completed based on 134.4 million acres of total compliance plans that need to be completed by Dec. 31, 1989. Percentage of systems implemented based on 133.9 million acres of conservation systems to be installed. These acreages are less than the 139.1 million acres of land to be determined highly erodible because of delays in soil surveys and changes in land use and USDA program participation.

Kathy Gugulis (202) 447-9149

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USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET RICE PRICES

WASHINGTON, April 25—Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard T. Crowder today announced the prevailing world market prices of milled rice, loan rate basis, as follows:

- long grain whole kernels, 11.17 cents per pound;
- medium grain whole kernels, 10.36 cents per pound;
- short grain whole kernels, 10.28 cents per pound;
- broken kernels, 5.59 cents per pound.

Minimum loan repayment rates for 1987 crop loans are the higher of the world price or 50 percent of the loan rate. For 1988 crop rice, the minimum repayment rates are the higher of the world price or 60 percent of the loan rate.

Based upon these prevailing world market prices for milled rice, rough rice world prices are estimated to be:

- long grain, \$6.91 per hundredweight;
- medium grain, \$6.49 per hundredweight;
- short grain, \$6.19 per hundredweight.

The prices announced are effective today at 3:00 P.M. EDT. The next scheduled price announcement will be made May 2 at 3:00 P.M. EDT, although prices may be announced sooner if warranted.

Gene Rosera (202) 447-7923

#

ANT AND ROACH KILLER, DISCOVERED AT USDA, IS APPROVED BY EPA

WASHINGTON, April 26—A compound that killed 90 percent of household ants and roaches in U.S. Department of Agriculture laboratory tests has been approved for commercial use by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Entomologist Clifford S. Lofgren and two colleagues in USDA's Agricultural Research Service have filed a patent on insecticidal properties of the compound, sulfluramid.

Lofgren said the compound, which can be coated onto a bait, also has been found in the researchers' laboratory studies to be 90-percent lethal against the imported fire ant, a stinging and mound-building pest in the South. Additional EPA approval would be needed to use sulfluramid against fire ants.

Against another nasty pest, the termite, Lofgren said the compound may have potential as a new weapon. "Testing is only in the preliminary stage, but results indicate that sulfluramid works on termites," he said. "Other scientific reports have shown it to be highly toxic to Formosan termites that recently arrived in this country."

The compound is being manufactured by Griffin Corp., Inc. of Valdosta, Ga., under an exclusive license from ARS, said Lofgren, of ARS's Imported Fire Ant and Household Insects Research Unit, Gainesville, Fla.

Allan Las, the company's business manager for insecticides, said the compound is formulated as a slow-acting insecticide in a bait that household ants "carry home and share with their nest-mates, killing the whole colony, including the queen. Cockroaches do not live in true nests but are social enough that this 'pyramid effect' will kill their neighbors too."

Las said the firm will apply to EPA to register the compound for use against imported fire ants at recreation areas such as golf courses and ball fields, at utility companies and factories and along roadways.

Lofgren and co-researchers uncovered the compound's insecticidal properties while using it as a wetting agent to coat baits with another potential fire ant insecticide. "But when the ants were killed by both this bait and a control bait coated only with sulfluramid, we realized we had stumbled onto a new class of compounds for controlling them," he said.

In the U.S., he said, consumers spend \$500 to \$600 million annually to control household ants and roaches, and fire ants annually cause up to \$200 million worth of damage in medical costs and agricultural losses.

“Besides inflicting painful stings on people and livestock, fire ants build mounds in parks, golf courses, school yards and farm fields. They damage electrical circuits and air conditioners and chew through roofing material in buildings,” he said.

Over 60 years ago, Lofgren said, the imported fire ant was discovered in Mobile, Ala., far from its native home in central South America. It has since spread to Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas. It also has colonized Puerto Rico, and in the last two years isolated infestations have been discovered in and eradicated from Arizona and California.

Lofgren, chemist Robert K. Vander Meer and entomologist David F. Williams at the Gainesville laboratory are filing the patent.

Vince Mazzola (301) 344-1712

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YEUTTER ANNOUNCES DROUGHT ASSISTANCE FOR U.S. FARMERS

WASHINGTON, April 26—Responding to mounting concerns over continued dryness in parts of the country and pleas for aid from Midwestern governors, Agriculture Secretary Clayton Yeutter today announced several measures to deal with drought-impacted crop conditions throughout the Nation’s agricultural sector.

Yeutter said the U.S. Department of Agriculture is responding, “as quickly and compassionately as possible,” to the need for more flexibility by farmers and ranchers in dry Midwestern growing areas. Yeutter said, “Rain is what these states need, but I can’t guarantee that. However, I trust the assistance we are able to provide will help.”

In today’s announcements, Yeutter declared that farmers in counties meeting loss eligibility criteria established by USDA’s Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service will qualify for:

—Emergency haying and grazing of Acreage Conservation Reserve (ACR) and Conservation Use (CU) acreage, which will permit qualifying farmers to graze or make hay on this land during the five designated summer months when this cropland normally is idle.

—Emergency Feed Assistance and Emergency Feed Programs (EFAP and EFP). Under EFAP, Commodity Credit Corporation-owned grain can be sold to livestock and poultry producers at 50 percent of the average market price in the county. Under EFP, CCC can share feed costs for farmers who must purchase more than normal amounts of feed for their livestock. In that situation, CCC can pay up to one-half of the cost of purchased feed, including hay, not to exceed 5 cents a pound to cover their feed needs or farmers' feed loss, whichever is smaller.

Yeutter also:

—Said he had directed ASCS headquarters in Washington to respond to eligibility requests from state offices within 24 hours, and to expedite assessments of failed acreage.

—Asked that county ASCS offices inform farmers of their eligibility for zero/92 deficiency payments if they have signed up for 1989 farm programs, are determined to have a total crop loss, and do not plant a second crop.

—Instructed Farmers Home Administration officials to sell hay at a reasonable cost and take bids for grazing on its inventory property in counties where the state ASCS committee has authorized release of set-aside acres for haying and grazing.

—Informed governors that their requests for emergency credit will be quickly processed by FmHA using damage assessment reports from the State Food and Agriculture Councils. When county-by-county evaluations are complete, Yeutter will determine whether emergency low-interest loans for farmers should be granted.

In addition to the emergency provisions announced today, Yeutter also established a 1989 USDA Drought Task Force, headed by Under Secretary for International Affairs and Commodity Programs Richard T. Crowder, to closely monitor weather, crop and livestock conditions throughout the country and make recommendations for further action if and when appropriate.

Yeutter said that as a result of today's actions, U.S. farmers will have the potential to utilize substantially more acreage for haying and grazing, adding that the emergency feed programs should help stem any significant livestock sell-offs.

Today's announcements follow a fact-finding tour of drought-stricken Kansas growing areas on April 14 by Yeutter and Gov. Mike Hayden along with Senators Robert Dole and Nancy Kassebaum (both R-Kan.) and Rep. Pat Roberts (R-Kan.).

The announced program will, however, apply in all counties which meet the eligibility criteria, irrespective of where they are located. Requests for federal assistance have been submitted by officials in several states. Also, last week President Bush announced additional advance deficiency payments of \$850 million to eligible farmers nationwide.

Kelly Shipp (202) 447-4623

Tom Von Garlem (202) 447-6761

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Background

U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Information

DROUGHT ASSISTANCE

Here's further background on programs and terms discussed in today's announcement on drought assistance.

—HAYING AND GRAZING OF FARM PROGRAM ACREAGE. To receive government price support benefits, deficiency payments and other benefits, producers of wheat, feed grains, upland and extra long staple cotton, and rice must agree to reduce the production of these crops on their farms. This idled acreage generally is devoted to approved conserving uses to protect against erosion. As a result of a natural disaster, the Secretary of Agriculture may authorize on a county-by-county basis haying and grazing during restricted five-month periods individually established for all states.

—EMERGENCY FEED PROGRAM. In 1989, qualifying producers in counties in which a livestock emergency has been determined to exist are eligible to receive cost-share assistance for the purchase of livestock feed. USDA's Commodity Credit Corp. may share feed costs for producers who must purchase more than normal amounts of feed for their livestock. The CCC will provide assistance for up to one-half the cost of purchased feed, including hay, not to exceed 5 cents a pound to cover the producer's feed needs or feed loss, whichever is smaller.

—EMERGENCY FEED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. In 1989, qualifying producers in counties in which a livestock emergency has been determined to exist are eligible to purchase grain from the CCC at 50 percent of the average market price in the county. CCC makes this grain available to the same producers who are also eligible to receive assistance under the Emergency Feed Program.

—ZERO/92 PAYMENTS. Under the 1989 wheat, feed grain, upland and extra long staple cotton, and rice programs, participating producers are eligible to receive price support benefits, deficiency payments and other benefits. Deficiency payments are made to producers in the event market prices do not exceed statutory target prices. These payments are based upon the acreages actually planted to these commodities. However, under the 1989 wheat and feed grain programs, producers may receive

payments based upon the 1989 projected deficiency payment rates with respect to acreage which is not planted to these crops if the land is devoted to approved conserving uses. The acreage for which a producer may receive these payments may not exceed 92 percent of the farm's wheat and feed grain crop acreage base, respectively. Producers who elect to exercise this option must have enrolled in the 1989 program by April 14, and must designate eligible 0/92 acreage.

—**FAILED ACREAGE.** Producers participating in the 1989 program whose program crop fails may replant the failed acreage to another crop and earn any deficiency payments which would have been made with respect to the original crop. If the replanted crop is a program crop, program payments and benefits will not be made with respect to that second crop. Producers who wish to get failed acreage credit must apply in the county ASCS office within 15 days of the crop failure and prior to destruction of the evidence that a crop actually was planted.

Determination of whether a crop has failed will be made by the county ASCS committee. Producers also may designate this failed acreage as conserving use (CU) under the 0/92 provisions of the wheat and feed grain programs and receive guaranteed payments in an amount equal to the projected deficiency payment rate.

—**EMERGENCY CREDIT/EMERGENCY LOAN PROGRAM.** The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to designate a county as a natural disaster area when it is determined that farming, ranching, or aquaculture operations have been substantially impacted by a natural disaster. One of these criteria must be met: at least a 30-percent reduction, countywide, from normal dollar value of all crops; at least a 30-percent reduction, countywide, of a single crop; or qualifying losses suffered by one or more farmers who cannot get credit elsewhere. Emergency loans cannot exceed the actual loss and is capped at \$500,000 per loan. The interest rate is 4.5 percent. To qualify, the farmer must: have a 30-percent or greater loss; be a family-size farm operator; be unable to get credit elsewhere; and have federal crop insurance on the damaged crop if it was available.

—**HAYING AND GRAZING ON FmHA INVENTORY PROPERTY.** The Farmers Home Administration will sell hay at reasonable cost and take bids for grazing on its inventory property in counties where the state ASCS committee has authorized release of acreage conservation reserve (ACR) and conservation use (CU) acres for haying and grazing.

—1989 USDA DROUGHT TASK FORCE. To be chaired by USDA Under Secretary for International Affairs and Commodity Programs Richard T. Crowder, members will include administrators of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, Farmers Home Administration, Federal Crop Insurance Corp., World Agricultural Outlook Board, Economic Research Service, Soil Conservation Service, Forest Service, the director of Intergovernmental Affairs, and other key USDA officials.

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